

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A server system comprising:
a plurality of printed circuit assemblies, including at least one host processor card;
a server management card coupled to the plurality of printed circuit assemblies for monitoring and managing operation of the server system, the server management card receiving and storing status information from the plurality of printed circuit assemblies, the server management card including a plurality of interfaces for configuring the server management card and accessing the stored status information from the server management card.
2. The server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of interfaces to the server management card include at least one serial port interface and at least one LAN interface.
3. The server system of claim 2, wherein the LAN interface is configured to be coupled to a server management LAN.
4. The server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of interfaces to the server management card further include at least one LCD panel mounted on the server system.
5. The server system of claim 3, wherein a the plurality of interfaces to the server management card include a first LCD panel mounted on a front panel of the server system, and a second LCD panel mounted on a back panel of the server system.
6. The server system of claim 1, wherein multiple connections through the plurality of interfaces to the server management card may be active at one time.
7. The server system of claim 6, wherein the multiple connections through the plurality of interfaces include a master connection, and at least one mirrored connection,

wherein the master connection provides control over the server management card, and the at least one mirrored connection allows monitoring of the master connection.

8. The server system of claim 1, wherein the server management card is configured to communicate via a telnet protocol through at least one of the plurality of interfaces to the server management card.

9. The server system of claim 1, and further comprising a backplane for connecting the server management card and the plurality of printed circuit assemblies, the backplane include at least one I²C bus, the plurality of printed circuit assemblies configured to transmit the status information to the server management card via the at least one I²C bus.

10. The server system of claim 1, wherein the server management card provides at least three levels of user access through the plurality of interfaces, including read-only access, read and configuration access, and read, configuration, and password access.

11. A method of communicating with a server system to configure the server system and obtain status information from cards fitted in the server system, the method comprising:

providing a management card in the server system including a plurality of user interfaces;

transmitting status information from the cards fitted in the server system to the management card;

receiving the status information from the management card via one of the plurality of user interfaces;

transmitting configuration information through one of the plurality of user interfaces to the management card; and

storing the configuration information on the management card.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of user interfaces to the management card include at least one serial port interface, at least one LAN interface, and at least one LCD panel mounted on the server system.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the LAN interface is configured to be coupled to a server management LAN.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein a the plurality of user interfaces to the management card include a first LCD panel mounted on a front panel of the server system, and a second LCD panel mounted on a back panel of the server system.

15. The method of claim 11, and further comprising:
providing multiple simultaneously active connections through the plurality of user interfaces to the management card.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the multiple simultaneously active connections through the plurality of user interfaces include a master connection, and at least one mirrored connection, wherein the master connection provides control over the management card, and the at least one mirrored connection allows monitoring of the master connection.

17. The method of claim 11, and further comprising:
connecting to the management card through one of the plurality of user interfaces using a telnet protocol.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the status information transmitted from the cards fitted in the server system to the management card is transmitted through an I²C bus routed through a backplane of the server system.

19. The method of claim 11, and further comprising:

providing at least three levels of user access to the management card through the plurality of user interfaces, including read-only access, read and configuration access, and read, configuration, and password access.

20. A server management card for managing the operation of a server system, the server system including a plurality of cards fitted in the server system, the server management card comprising:

a set of bus inputs for receiving status information via at least one system bus from the plurality of cards fitted in the server system;

a memory for storing the received status information;

a plurality of user interfaces for allowing a user to access the server management card, configure the server management card, and access the stored status information.